

# GRAUSTARK

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Celebrating the Inhoguration of President Pigasus Dubya Pig Jr.

## THIS MODERN WORLD By Tom Tomorrow

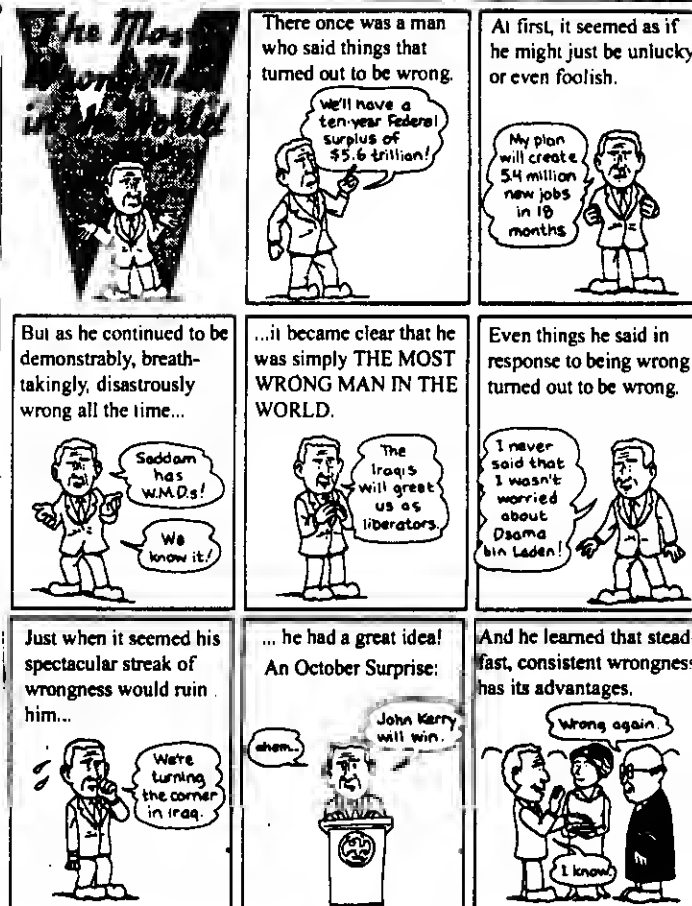


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## BIZARRO

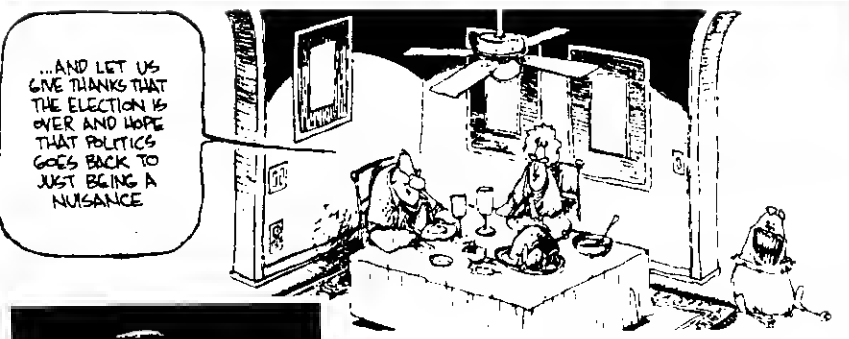
by Dan Piraro



In this issue: The annual report of the Ignobel Prizes

**SUTTON IMPACT**  
**KARL ROVE SUMS IT ALL UP FOR LIBERALS**  
by WARD "ARCHITECT" SUTTON

<p>WE PISSED ALL OVER YOUR SO-CALLED "SCIENCE." WE MOCKED YOUR LACK OF OUR KIND OF FAITH.</p>	<p>WE IGNORED ALL YOUR PROTESTS AND WARNINGS ABOUT ATTACKING IRAQ. THEN REPUSED TO ADMIT WE EVER MADE ANY MISTAKE.</p>	<p>WE TOOK OFFICE AND TOLD YOU TO KISS OUR ASSES AS IF WE ACTUALLY HAD A MANDATE.</p>	<p>WE DOVE HEADFIRST INTO DESTROYING ALL THE LITTLE TREATIES AND REGULATIONS YOU LIKED.</p>
<p>WE SET OUT NOT ONLY TO SEAT YOUR CANDIDATE BUT TO UTTERLY HUMILIATE HIM.</p>	<p>WE SHAT ALL OVER JOHN KERRY'S HEROIC WAR RECORD AND RIDICULED HIS SERVICE AND WAR WOUNDS.</p>	<p>WE PLAYED TO THE WORST IN VOTERS. WE BURNED SAYS AT THE STAKE. WE PEAR-MONGERED ALL THE WAY THROUGH ELECTION DAY.</p>	<p>WE DID ALL WE COULD TO BLOCK KERRY VOTERS FROM VOTING. AND AS FOR THOSE DIEBOLD MACHINES... WELL, YOU'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW, WILL YOU?</p>
<p>PLUS WE PUT OUR ALL INTO OUSTING DASCHLE JUST TO RUB YOUR NOSES IN IT!</p>	<p>BUT... NOW IT'S TIME TO WHITE AND WORK TOGETHER... IF YOU SHARE OUR GOALS.</p>	<p>DO I DETECT A LINGERING BAD ATTITUDE?</p>	



**Zell Miller Named First Secretary Of Offense**

**Religion and election**

Hail to those like Frank Pastore in their quest to declare this a "Christian" nation ["The election proves the right is correct," Opinion, Nov. 10]. But what happens when the official state Christianity doesn't turn out to be your brand? Isn't that the exact reason our American ancestors left their own countries centuries ago? Be careful what you wish for.

By the way, I was surprised that the last vote elected Pastore to sit in judgment. I had no idea there was a vacancy. How nice of him to assume the crown and fill it.

Dan Guarino  
Broad Channel



FUTURE BUSH CABINET MEETINGS

**CONTEST**  
**MI**

No think tank of its size has had the influence of Manhattan's own Manhattan Institute on the domestic policy debate in this country. For 25 years, the foundation has been spreading tough-on-crime, free-market and anti-affirmative-action gospel in countless op-eds. It also generously supplied former Mayor Giuliani with every idea he ever had.

To mark the institution's 25th anniversary, the Picks Contest invites readers to complete the following op-ed, written by a composite Manhattan Institute resident scholar. Each space can hold up to four words. Send your completed op-ed to [editor@nypress.com](mailto:editor@nypress.com) or clip and mail to Editor, New York Press, 333 7th Ave., 14th Fl., NY, NY 10001. The winner will be announced in next week's issue and receive a highly desirable New York Press hoodie. Specific your S, M, L or XL.

Never in the history of our Republic has liberty been under such threat from the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. Where is \_\_\_\_\_ when you need him? The only sensible course is the complete \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the interests of furthering \_\_\_\_\_ and revitalizing the \_\_\_\_\_ energies that once made this country a \_\_\_\_\_ beacon of \_\_\_\_\_ to the world. The only thing standing in the way is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ and the legacy of \_\_\_\_\_ that refuses to stand aside and allow the \_\_\_\_\_ of history. And so, we must \_\_\_\_\_ immediately. What this country needs is a good \_\_\_\_\_, a little bit of \_\_\_\_\_ and some more \_\_\_\_\_. A timely recognition that \_\_\_\_\_ is a waste of \_\_\_\_\_ wouldn't hurt either. Anyone who thinks otherwise is a \_\_\_\_\_.

Congratulations to Anne Pechstein of Manhattan for correctly identifying Mayor Bloomberg as the source of the MTA-bashing quote in last week's edition of Who Said It?

**Copycat Putin?**

Editor — President Vladimir Putin Russia proposes further restriction of the lives, liberty and political repression of his country's population. Putin deems these moves necessary the war against terrorist attacks. Where do you suppose he got these ideas?

MARK JEROME  
San Francisco

BY CHARLES PUGSLEY FINCHER

**THADEUS & WEEZ**

<p>DID DUBYA TAKE ANY MATH IN SCHOOL?</p>	<p>OF COURSE.</p>	<p>THEN WHY DOESN'T HE KNOW?!</p>	<p>YOU CAN'T CUT TAXES AND INCREASE SPENDING WITHOUT RUNNING UP DEFICITS.</p>	<p>I DIDN'T SAY HIS GRADES WERE GOOD. BET HE FLUNKED.</p>
<p>WE TOOK A WRONG TURN.</p>	<p>STAY THE COURSE.</p>	<p>WE'RE GOING THE WRONG DIRECTION.</p>	<p>STAY THE COURSE.</p>	<p>WE'RE IN THE WRONG LANE.</p>
<p>TAY THE URSE.</p>	<p>THERE'S AN 18-WHEELER COMING AT US.</p>	<p>STAY THE COURSE.</p>	<p>Dubya shows his legendary resolve.</p>	

## THE 2004 IGNOBEL PRIZES

[Time pressure prevented me from getting to the Four and a Half Kingdoms in order to make this report, and I was unable to get a flight to the Balkan Massif because the gate guards found a pair of nail clippers concealed in a bottle of tetranitroaniline in my luggage. I have therefore assigned this task to the former Iraqi political leader Hassan Hadda Ba'ath. Please excuse his English, since his English lessons were interrupted by the arrest of his instructor, who was the deuce of clubs in that famous "Wanted" deck. I suggest reading his account phonetically. - JB]

Mr. Boardman's introduction is too kind. In realism I was Double Number 37-A for late Beloved Leader Saddam Hussein al-Tikriti, he should only hang by his yarbles until second coming of Muhammad, pees be upon him. I go into hiding when invasion come, and go publick only when Saddam Hussein is capture. Then I shave off moustache and aks barber for very short hair cut. Barber say in America now very short hair cut have meaning I don want to kno about, so instead I die blond. For first time in life, hair lighter than skinne, which ladies in Skandalutz think very sexie.

I hitch ride to Four And A Half King Dombs with polish deserters who high jack American supply plain, and arrive in Skandalutz just as Winter Solstus Festival begin. I get ticket in Scared Lotterie but not get choosed king, luckie for me, because after year in king job he get sacrificed to Muthah Goddess. But new king is Arab, name Abu Musab al-Zargawi. When he choosen, crazie American in crowd shout, "There's no real Abu Musab al-Zargawi. This is just a name lots of terrorists use." New king he say, "I am the dread terrorist Abu Musab al-Zargawi. Ask about a franchise in your area." Later I lern American is Yippi leader Julius Orange, who hide out in Balkan Massif since 1968 Chicoggo riots.

Then old king is sacrifice. He name Ganymede Jackson, and priestess tell me he once member of American singing group Jackson 5½ until family kick him out for two many sex and race changes. Queen and court eat him at Sacred Feast.

Next come visit to Grand Dukey of Wogastisburg-Schlampenbüttel, where Ignobel Prizes are awarded. Announce ments made by Aldo Ignobel, grand son of Aloys Ignobel, whose will made prizes back in Year of Infidels 1937. War Prize go to President Museveni of Uganda and Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army. These leaders of rival forces have violated more cease fires than anywhere else outside Muddle East. Awards accepted for both men by fat African from Sodding Arabia, Idi Amin's half brother Idi Ott. Ignobel say, not letting big noisy war in Iraq take attension away from these hard-working warriors.

Espionage Prize go to George Tenet, former head of CIA. Is Tenet's second award because this year President Butch give him medal for CIA work. Prize accepted for him by Senator Lieberman, who deny rumors he is new Intelligenz Tsar. Genocide Prize go to Lynndie England, American soldier who treat Arab prisoners like animals, which is first step to genocide. Award accepted for her by another U. S. soldier, father of her new baby. He say Americans have to treat Iraqis like that, or else they not kno who their new masters are.

Provocation Prize go to William Donahue for efforts to get Christians and Jews mad at each other in America. In America many people say Christians are being persecuted, but only Donahue say by who. Donahue blame "secular Jews in Hollywood who hate Christians, especially Catholics". Donahue is leader of Catholic Leag for Civil and Religious Rites. Aldo Ignobel say talk like that provoke genocide, war, and other profitable activities. Julius Orange say Donahue is onely member of Leag.

Military Science Prize go to American newspaper columnist James P. Pinkerton. He get it for article in favor of violet movies and video games because "Americans seem to realize that if wars must be fought, then killer instincts must be honed." Award accepted for Pinkerton by last year's winner, Major Bret Wilson, who teach at West Pointe and designed game "America's Army" to get youth to enlist in army.

After ceremonies was going to Circus Bowl game in Temporary Roaming Empire, where Blue-State Lions beat Red-State Christians 17 to nothing. (No, I not knoing what names of teams mean.) Get so drunk on *al-hamra* at Chariot Tail Gate Partie, I all most miss

rock festivil in Kingdom of Pundschruck. Festival much fun; lead guitar of best rock group is King Otto VIII, who bring back monarchy a few years ago at rock festivil. Other royal exiles also show up, I recog nize members of old Hashemi royal familie from Iraq. One prince offer me job as his double if monarcy ever come back to Iraq. I thank him but say I have enuf of that kine of jobb. So he offer me job as taster. This I take, after he tell me it applie to food and drink and to women also.

#### THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS - I

"Q. Which nation suffered the greatest loss of life in a single ship sinking during the war?

"A. Germany, when approximately 6,500 troops drowned during the evacuation of Danzig, April 16, 1945. A 5,320-ton merchant ship; the Goya, was hit by allied torpedoes and because it was very much overweight sank almost instantly. This is the greatest single maritime loss in history, not only the war." - Timothy B. Benford, *The World War II Quiz & Fact Book* (1982), pp. 191-192.

"*Wilhelm Gustloff* - German passenger liner weighing 25,000 tons that was sunk by a Russian submarine in the Baltic on January 30, 1945. It was evacuating refugees from Danzig at the time, and over 8,000 people died in the worst sea disaster in maritime history." - Don McCombs and Fred L. Worth, *World War II Strange & Fascinating Facts* (1983), p. 639

#### PLEASE STAND BY

I am willing to take over games that have been abandoned by their gamesmasters. So if you are a postal gamesmaster who is no longer able to publish, or if you are a player in a postal game of regular Diplomacy that has gone for two or three months without a move being published, please get in touch with the Orphan Games Director, Michael Lowrey. (See p. 11 for his address.) If the game is to continue in Graustark, I would need the addresses of all active players, the current position, and a list of who owns which supply centers. If subscription money can be passed along to me, fine. Otherwise I will ask players to join a new game in Graustark, or to subscribe to Graustark if they do not already do so. Players who resign or drop out can be replaced by Graustark stand-by players.

Stand-by players are always needed for postal Diplomacy games in Graustark. If you volunteer as a stand-by, you may be called upon whenever a current player misses a move. If you send in moves for that country for the next turn, and the present player does not, you will take over play of that position. No game fee will be asked, though you should keep your subscription current, or enroll in a new Graustark game. No stand-by will be called upon in a game in which he or she has already played.

Stand-by volunteers who are willing to take on additional games of postal Diplomacy are listed below. A stand-by player who is already playing in a Graustark game are indicated by "\*". If you wish your name added to or removed from this list, please let me know.

Hank Alme  
John R. Biehl  
Michael Quirk\*

Eric Verheiden\*  
Fred Wiedemeyer\*

#### WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issue of Graustark. For information on joining a new game, or extending your subscription, see p. 8.

765 - Mike Fisher  
767 - Jim Grose  
Paul Milewski

767 - Eric Verheiden  
W. Andrew York  
799 - Brenton Verploeg

## PATRIOTISM - XXXV

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the orders of Senator Tom Daschle (D-SD), then Senator Minority Leader, that Democrats should not vote for Senator Russ Feingold's (D-WI) amendments mitigating the USA PATRIOT Act because "he wanted Democrats to also show their patriotism".

PATRIOTISM is yet another *New York Times* editorial demanding that the U. S. send 40,000 more troops into Iraq. (22 November 2004)

PATRIOTISM is the belief that war is a "moral value".

PATRIOTISM is a U. S. Marine shooting a wounded, unarmed Iraqi who was lying on the floor of a mosque in Fallujah.

PATRIOTISM is the justification of this plain act of murder by another Marine who was present, Sgt. Nicholas Graham, who said, "I would have shot the insurgent, too. Two shots to the head. You can't trust these people. He should not be investigated. He did nothing wrong." (*New York Daily News*, 17 November 2004)

PATRIOTISM is the support for this murder by Bill O'Reilly, and by an anonymous editorial writer. (*Ibid.*) The editorial concluded "Sayonara, dead guy." O'Reilly said "The Marine made a decision that was reasonable...Mistakes will be made. But this action is not one of them."

PATRIOTISM is the belief that if Sergeant Graham and his anonymous, trigger-happy little friend return safely from Iraq, it will be a good thing for America.

PATRIOTISM is deporting to Honduras an undocumented alien who went to get her work permit renewed, without giving her a chance to say goodbye to her husband and daughter. (I'll bet she won't blow up the Pentagon now!)

PATRIOTISM is deporting a political refugee from Bangladesh, who had lived in the U. S. for 12 years, because she went to a New York Department of Motor Vehicles office to inquire about the status of her driver's license.

PATRIOTISM is forbidding the singer Patti LaBelle from boarding a flight after she refused to take off her shirt for a "security" guard. (And if she had taken it off, would she have been fined like Janet Jackson was?)

PATRIOTISM is subjecting Jeneffer Field, 71, who walks with a cane, to a "breast pat-down" at an airport in Kansas City. (When did al Qaeda start recruiting old ladies?)

PATRIOTISM is the threatening e-mails sent by two middle-aged New York men to the Islamic Center of America in Detroit, threatening "to kill Muslims in response to recent events in the Middle East".

PATRIOTISM is terminating Linda Ronstadt's gig at a Las Vegas hotel, and ejecting her from her hotel room, because she praised Michael Moore, whose film *Fahrenheit 9/11* was strongly critical of George W. Bush. (with thanks to Mark Blackman for this item)

PATRIOTISM is advertisements urging people to boycott Bruce Springsteen because he opposed George W. Bush. (also with thanks to Mark Blackman)

PATRIOTISM is an on-line smear campaign by the National Academy of American Scholars, claiming that several college students are Islamic terrorists, mafiosi, or homosexuals. (Samuel G. Freedman, *New York Times*, 17 November 2004)

PATRIOTISM is suspending a high-school student in Gwinett County, Georgia, for wearing a shirt that read "Hempstead, NY", thinking it was an endorsement of marijuana ("hemp"). Actually, Hempstead is a Long Island town where the student formerly lived.

PATRIOTISM is panic over a computer disk found in Iraq, which allegedly contained information from a publicly accessible Department of Education website about crisis planning in American schools.

PATRIOTISM is a prolonged investigation, by the office of the Sheriff of Loudon County (VA), of an 11-year-old who was suspended for refusing a school assignment to write a letter to a U. S. Marine in Iraq because he is strongly opposed to war. The investigation included a three-hour interrogation of his parents. (Rosalind S. Helderman, *Washington Post*, 15 December 2004, with thanks to Judith Judson)

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

## HOW HE GOT THERE

Sir John Mortimer, *Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders* (2004, Viking, NY; \$25)

This is the fourteenth in the series of books about the courtroom adventures of Horace Rumpole, which have brought fame both to their author and to Leo McKern, who played Rumpole brilliantly on the PBS series *Rumpole of the Bailey*. However, it is the first book of this series that can be described as a "historical". From time to time, in the other books, Rumpole has mentioned the first triumph of his career, a successful defense in the Penge Bungalow Murders, which he handled without a leader and with careful attention to the bloodstain evidence.

But before studying this case, we must first take up some differences between the English and American legal systems. In principle, any American lawyer who has passed the bar examination and been admitted to practice in a state can plead before any court in that state. But England has a two-tier legal system. Solicitors handle such routine legal matters as wills, contracts, and other documents. But pleading in court must be done by a barrister. There is a further caste difference among barristers; the most prestigious become "Queen's Counsels" ("Q. C."), which may be compared with being admitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court. For very important cases there is a team of barristers, whose senior member is the leader, and who hands the donkey-work of the case off to his junior(s). These come from the leader's chambers, which are not quite the same thing as an American law firm. England does not appear to have a system of state-supported prosecutors like an American District Attorney, a Scottish Procurator Fiscal, or a Dutch Schout. In previous Rumpole books we have seen Rumpole, invariably a defense attorney with a careful and vigorous attention to the civil liberties of his clients, facing prosecuting barristers from Equity Court, his own chambers, a thing that would be almost unthinkable in an American law firm.

In this book, Rumpole at last takes us into his confidence about the details of the case of the Penge Bungalow Murders, on which we have received tantalizing bits of information in the earlier books. This case was linked to his admission to Equity Court, and to his introduction to the Timsons, a large and amiable clan of non-violent London criminals from whom Rumpole will get much employment in subsequent decades. The case also will lead to his marriage with Hilda Wystan, the daughter of his Head of Chambers. We can date these events to after February 1952, since the legal formulas are in the name of a Queen rather than a King. (This meant that, at the accession of Queen Elizabeth II, all the "King's Counsels" became "Queen's Counsels". As it happened, two of them had already been Queen's Counsels, during Queen Victoria's reign 51 years earlier.)

Penge seems to be a dreary suburb of South London, a sort of English Levittown. Like the American Levittowns of that period, it was largely populated by veterans of World War II. Two of them, formerly members of a bomber crew, and then prisoners of war after being shot down over occupied France, were the victims. Earlier that evening they and some other R. A. F. veterans had been on a drunken outing, and upon returning to the home of the sometime pilot, a war widower, they were witnesses to a towering row between him and his son. The next morning, the victims were found shot dead in their homes with a Luger pistol, a war souvenir that the pilot had kept on his mantle. Suspicion fell on the pilot's son, particularly after a Luger with two bullets fired was found in the trash.

There is a great outcry of indignation at the murders of two war heroes. Wystan is briefed for the defense, but even he believes that his young client is guilty, and keeps trying to talk him into a claim of self-defense against a drunken attack from his father, which never happened. When the defendant rejects this, Wystan effectively leaves the defense to his junior - Rumpole, in his first case as a barrister.

Faced with no leader, a confident prosecution team and an unfriendly judge, Rumpole quickly establishes from the bloodstain evidence that there are great gaping holes in the prosecution's scenario for the murders. He then makes inquiries of the other veterans present on the night of the murders, and finds that the victims were not the war heroes they are popularly believed to be. The world generally believes that the populations of the Allies, military and civilian, without exception desired complete victory at any cost over the evils represented by the Axis powers, and would settle for



nothing less despite any private fears they might have had. The reality was sometimes quite different.

During the Interbellum, a great many people in Europe and North America had taken for granted that the next great war would be between the capitalist powers on one side, and on the other the Soviet Union aided by revolts fomented by Communists in the capitalist powers and in their colonies. These fears were most severe in the ruling classes of the industrialized nations, and in their armed forces. Numerous novels expressed these fears. In some of them, such as H. G. Wells' *The Autocracy of Mr. Parham* (1929) an alliance of western European nations attacked the Soviet Union, but in most of them, such as Floyd Gibbons' flatly racist *The Red Napoleon* (1929) or John S. Martin's *General Manpower* (1938), the Soviet Union was the aggressor. When anti-Communist dictatorships were established in many European nations, they were cheered in Great Britain, France, and the United States as stout guardians against the Great Red Menace. I once owned a booklet written by an admiring member of the British aristocracy, shortly after Benito Mussolini seized power in Italy. It was entitled *The Red Dragon and the Blackshirts: How Italy Found Her Soul*. Similar sentiments were abroad in France. Faced with a sort of French "New Deal" led by a Socialist Prime Minister, Léon Blum, military and aristocratic circles in France coined the slogan "Better Hitler than Blum". But the domestic excesses and foreign menace of the Axis nations persuaded many politicians in the nominally democratic nations that anti-Communism might prove to be a worse menace than Communism. And world opinion might have controlled its public regrets over the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States in 1939 if it had been realized that each of those three nations was at the time ruled by a military dictatorship which had seized power from an elected government.

Once World War II had broken out, many people in the western democracies went to war with the Axis whole-heartedly and with the realization that this was the only way to prevent horrors that could already be seen in operation in Axis-controlled nations. But many did not, and some of these reluctant warriors were in high positions. Between September 1939 and May 1940 there was almost no military action on the Western Front, a condition then called "the Phony War". Presumably it was thought in Paris and London that once Hitler had subdued Poland he would have a clear road to Russia, and the western nations could sit back and watch the German conquest of the Soviet Union.

Such sentiments were not unknown in Washington. When, after subjugating France and eight other western or southern European nations, the Axis powers attacked the Soviet Union in June 1941, an obscure Midwestern Senator said: "If we see that Germany is winning we ought to help Russia, and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany." Four years later, that Senator was President of the United States, and those words were the cornerstone of his foreign policy.

In talking to their wartime mates, Rumpole discovers that similar anti-Communist sentiments animated the two victims of the Penge Bungalow Murders, who had also been deeply worried about the high casualty rate among bomber crews. They had been the pilot and tail gunner of a bomber; the only other crew member was the navigator. This seems rather light for a bomber. By comparison, the crew of an American B-17 also included a co-pilot, a bombardier, a radioman, two waist gunners, and a ball turret gunner. As the official story had it, the navigator was killed when the bomber was shot down, and the other two went to a prisoner of war camp until rescued by the Allied invasion. But Rumpole's inquiries get evidence that demolishes this official story, explains what really happened in France, clears the defendant, and identifies the motive of a very likely suspect, who promptly disappears. We are not told whether he is ever brought to justice.

There was also an American airman who took this view. At some time in his past, Lieutenant Martin J. Monti, a fighter pilot in the Army Air Corps, had apparently received strongly anti-Communist indoctrination. (I have my own suspicions as to how this had happened, but without evidence there is no point in expressing them.) In 1944 he flew his P-38 to Vienna and offered his services in fighting the Russians. The Germans put him in charge of a SS ("Blackshirt") unit, but never wholly trusted him. After the war, he went on trial in federal court for treason, was found guilty, and sentenced to 25 years in prison and a large fine. (The U. S. government has never executed anyone for treason. If Davis and Lee were not executed for actions intended to destroy this country, why should a little piss-ant like Monti be put to death?)

## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Today's terror alert color code is Ukrainian Orange, just like those flags that the demonstrators in Kiev are waving. Whoever thought that the time would come, when Ukrainians would be more devoted than Americans to democracy and honest elections?

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Graustark is the Very First bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy. It is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Diplomacy is a board game of negotiation and conflict for the period of World War I. It was designed by Allan B. Calhamer and is now published by Hasbro. Another new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized in Graustark, at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50, and for other foreign addresses it is \$100 or 75 euros in cash.) This game fee includes a subscription to Graustark for as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee send in a list of the countries you'd like to play, in your order of preference, and I'll try to put you as close to the top of that list as I can. If you do not already have the postal rules for Diplomacy, which were last published in Graustark #749, let me know when you send in your game fee, and I'll send you a copy.

This is

O At  
P Great  
E Intervals  
R This  
A Appears  
T To  
I Inflamm  
O Optic  
N Nerves

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and \$40 or 30 euros for others. Back issues as available are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same price as for foreign subscriptions.

# 2102

Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579 or 718-951-5808, extension 2. There are answering machines which can take your moves if I'm out. I do not have an e-mail address.

I want to again remind players that the U. S. Postal "Service" is not capable of reliably getting mail here in less than a week. Please take this into account in sending in your moves. If, a few times, your moves have arrived here by mail in less than a week, do not assume that this will always be the case.

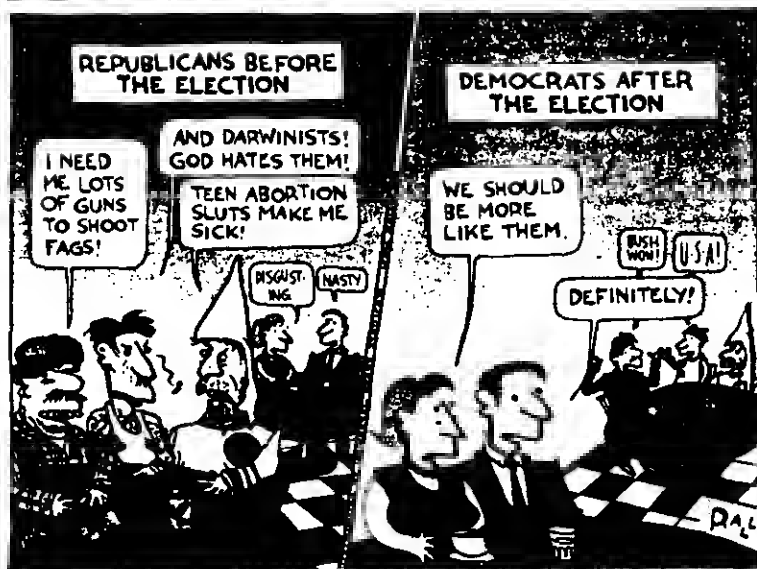
Graustark readers who are interested in postal games which don't run here, are invited to write to the publishers of 'zines with which I trade, and ask what game openings they have. For their addresses, see all the readers indicated by "(T)" for "trade" in the Graustark Directory on pp. 10-11. Several of these publishers run a wide variety of postal games.

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The military occupation of Iraq is not proceeding with the ease expected by "President" Bush's handlers, and they have found themselves running out of National Guard and Reserve members to call up. Most recently, they have tried to make up this

manpower shortage by unilaterally extending military tours of duty, so that men who thought that they had been mustered out have received "official" notifications to return to Iraq. At least 1,000 of these people have reacted to this "back-door draft" by seeking legal help from the War Resisters League, the American Friends Service Committee, Citizen Soldier, or some other anti-war organization, to rescue them from an ill-considered "commitment" or unexpected and unlawful extensions of their "military obligation". In New York City, orientation sessions for new members of draft boards are being held. However, at least so far, very few people of influence in Washington have seriously suggested draft calls, even though draft regis-

## SEARCH AND DESTROY By Ted Rall





tration has allegedly been compulsory for 18-year-olds since 1980. (There hasn't been a prosecution for non-registration since 1985.) Because of heavy use of the

National Guard and the Reserves in the past 15 years, enlistments in these military units are down, and there may not be enough troops to fulfill Genghis George's plans for the rest of his "Axis of Evil," Iran and North Korea, or for a possible side trip into Syria.

But we know from the war with Vietnam what either large casualty counts or the imposition of a draft would do to the already declining public support for this war. So if you, or someone important to you, has injudiciously made a commitment to the National Guard or the Reserves, or is even on active duty, call the GI Rights Hotline, 1-800-394-9544, and check out your options. Or you could get in touch with the War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street,

New York, NY 10012-9911; 212-228-0450. And if you made the mistake of registering for the draft, and it should be revived, you should also get in touch with the WRL. They helped many people in the armed forces get out of the Gulf War, and are ready to do it again. A few dollars to help them do this work would also be welcome. Another useful source of information is the International Action Center, 39 W. 14th Street, New York, NY 10011. (212-633-6646; fax 212-633-2889; e-mail <iacenter@iacenter.org>; <www.iacenter.org>) They can provide you with information about this "war" that the U. S. government doesn't want you to know, and they may be able to direct you to anti-war organizations and demonstrations in your vicinity. And there is yet another way out, for anyone, soldier or civilian, who might get mobilized or drafted as a result of "President" Bush's private, undeclared war. If you are in danger of being called up for is grandiose schemes, get in touch with Citizen Soldier, 267 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016; 212-679-2250; fax 212-679-2252; <www.citizen-soldier.org>. "Citizen Soldier has been working against US militarism for the past three decades", particularly "to provide leadership support for thousands of young GIs who'll be looking for information and advice...Our strategy has been to advocate and defend GIs and veterans who stand up against illegal or immoral military practices."

\*

Mark Blackman has suggested that the publication of Sir John Mortimer's *Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders* (reviewed on pp. 6-7) is intended to provide the occasion for another PBS *Mystery Theater* dramatization of a Horace Rumpole case. Leo McKern was so closely identified as Rumpole that, now that he is dead, another actor would be unconvincing as the Rumpole of our time. But a younger actor could be cast as the Rumpole of 1953 or so, in this dramatization.

\*

So why did the 2004 presidential election turn out the way it did? A hint may be found in the "Doctor Feelgood" cases that appear in the media every year or two. A "Doctor Feelgood" is a physician who writes prescriptions for his patients which have nothing to do with their ailments, but merely kill pain and otherwise make them feel good. Doctor Feelgoods, of course, get very well paid for this. When a Doctor Feelgood is arrested, there are loud protests from those of his patients who are still alive and

# SUTTON IMPACT By Ward Sutton



## THE GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

Players in the current postal Diplomacy games, and the postal Colonial Diplomacy game, are indicated by its Boardman Number, with the initial of the country being played, and with "S" indicating an active stand-by player. (E. g., "2002A-G" or "2002D-FS".) Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

N: entrant in a new postal Diplomacy game now being organized in Graustark. (See p. 8 for details.)

T: trade copy

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

R: complimentary copy for a non-gamer interested in the mystery novel reviews

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory includes corrections and additions to the one that was hastily reconstructed in the last issue. It is accurate to the date of 6 January 2005. Please let me know of any corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added to your listing. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses.

If you are already a Graustark subscriber when you decide to send in a game fee, then when the game begins, the number of issues you had coming when you joined will be added to your subscription once the game ends. After your name in the Directory will appear some such notation as "2004C-T+6".

Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;  
<stephen@stephenagar.com>

Hank Alme (2004C-A), 506 Paige Loop, Los Alamos, NM 87544; 503-672-0883;  
<almehj@alummi.rice.edu>

Thom Anderson (R), #5-D, 10 Park Terrace East, New York, NY 10034

Ruth Berman (R), 2809 Drew Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55416-4209

John R. Biehl (2004C-R), #8, 11530 84th Avenue, Delta, BC V4C 2M1, CANADA; 604-591-1832;  
<jrb@dccnet.com>.

Mark Blackman (R), Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 17th St., Brooklyn, NY 11229

Paul & Meg Bolduc (T), 203 Devon Court, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547-3110; 850-863-9081;  
<Prbolduc@aol.com>; <bolduc@eglin.af.com>

Richard Bourgeois (2002A-G), 786 Myrtle Ave., Albany, NY 12208-2659; 518-437-9917

Anne Braude (R), 5316 W. Port au Prince Lane, Glendale, AZ 85306-3440

Colin Bruce (2004C-T+6), 22 Alliance Court, Hills Avenue, Cambridge CB1 7XE, ENGLAND

Jim Burgess (T), 664 Smith St., Providence, RI 02908-4327; 401-351-5287; <burgess@world.std.com>; web page <<http://devel.diplom.org/DipPouch/Postal/Zines/TAP/index.html>>

Brian Burley (C), 23 Reynolds Place, Harrison, NJ 07029

Allan B. Calhmer (C), 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, IL 60525-5523

Paul Cardwell Jr. (C), 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418-2913; 903-583-9296

David Charlton (C), 150 The Parade, Island Bay, Wellington 6002, NEW ZEALAND

Columbia Games Inc. (C), P. O. Box 3457, Blaine, WA 98231

Jim Dunnigan (C), 328 W. 19th St., New York, NY 10011

Paul Evans (T), 180 Aylsham Dr., Ickenham, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 8UF, ENGLAND

Mark Fassio (U), 276 Yates Lane, Pendleton, KY 40055-7751

Sue Feder (R), Historical Mystery Appreciation Society, 3 Goucher Woods Court, Towson, MD 21286; fax 410-847-9303; <monkshould@home.com>; <<http://members.home.net/monkshould>>

Mike Fisher (765), #2, 43 W. Manheim St., Philadelphia, PA 19144-2942

Jim Grose (2002D-R, 767), Apt. 210, 110 Forward Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4S9, CANADA; 613-728-8493; <JimGrs@aol.com>.

Chris Hassler (T), 2000 S. Armour Court, La Habra, CA 90631; 562-690-7827; fax 562-690-7827; <chassler@adelphia.com>

Sharon Heap (C), 2876 NY Route 26 South, Vestal, NY 13856

Raymond & Faith Heuer (R), 2nd floor, 9 Beacon Terrace, Keansburg, NJ 07734-1914

Tom Howell (T), 365 Storm King Road, Port Angeles, WA 98363; 360-928-9698;  
 <off-the-shelf@olympus.net>  
 Harley Jordan (2002A-T), 109 Sunnyside Dr., Rochester, NY 14623; 585-475-9832  
 Susan Keaveny (R), 1030 Tyrus Court, North Merrick, NY 11566-1035  
 Paul D. Kenny (T), 9 Cobblestone Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003-1420  
 Paul Koch (2004C-E), 24920 Fairmount Dr., Dearborn, MI 48124; 313-274-6579  
 Andy Lischett (2002D-FS, T), 2402 Ridgeland Ave., Berwyn, IL 60402  
 Rick Loomis (C), Flying Buffalo Inc., P. O. Box 1467, Scottsdale, AZ 85252  
 Michael Lowrey (C), 6903 Kentucky Derby Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215-6507; 704-569-4269  
 Joseph T. Major (C), 1409 Christy Ave., Louisville, KY 40204-2040  
 Harry Manogg (C), Apt. 608, 108 Kilmarnock St., Boston, MA 02215  
 Brad Martin (T), 2/14 Joseph Street, Maylands, 6051, Western Australia, AUSTRALIA;  
 <Westfront@hotmail.com>  
 Dan Mathias (2004C-G), 509 Bayview Drive, Lusby, MD 20657; 410-326-2568;  
 <dcmathias@erols.com>  
 Dan McKinsey (2002A-R), 33 Belmont St., Hamden, CT 06517; 203-288-2736;  
 <Daniel.mckinsey@yale.edu>  
 Paul J. Milewski (767), 7 Mallard Drive, Amelia, OH 45102-2148; 513-752-2411  
 David Milliams (T), Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta, GA 30307  
 Maggie Montgomery (R), Apt. 819, 325 W. 45th St., New York, NY 10036  
 Brendan Mooney (2004C-I), 423 Lenox Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090; 908-654-0527;  
 <bkmnooney@comcast.net>  
 Scott Morris (T), 12110 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 40243; <scottm221@aol.com>  
 Albert A. Nofi (C), <anofi@aol.com>  
 Carsten Obst, Pechsteinstr. 13, D-24539 Neumünster, GERMANY  
 Keith Wm. Oschman (U), Riverside Christian School, Lost Creek, KY 41348  
 Michael P. Quirk (2002D-GS, N), Apt. 10, 2750 Brittany Terrace, Manhattan, KS 66502;  
 785-587-0872  
 Phil Reynolds (T), 2896 Oak St., Sarasota, FL 34237; 813-953-6952; <preyno@yahoo.com>  
 Roberta Rogow (R), 1755-A Manor Drive, Irvington, NJ 07111  
 Bruce Schneier (C), Counterpane Systems, 101 E. Minnehaha Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55419  
 Greg Stafford (C), Chaosium Inc., #423, 895 B Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5107; 510-583-  
 1000; fax 510-583-1101  
 David Stone (2002A), 154 Cardinal Drive CSL, North Vernon, IN 47265  
 Sigourney Street (2002A-F), P. O. Box 1235, Boston, MA 02130-0011  
 Gary Tesser (R), #5-A, 2455 Haring St., Brooklyn, NY 11235  
 Eric Verheiden (2002D-IS, 767), 1805 Vista del Oro, Fullerton, CA 92831-1331;  
 <everheid@adelphia.net>  
 Brenton Verploeg (799), 1980 Tigertail Rd., Coconut Grove, FL 33133  
 Conrad von Metzke (C), 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, CA 92117-3813; 858-270-8313;  
 <metske@san.rr.com>  
 William Watkins (2002A-A), 918 Bogert Road, River Edge, NJ 07661; 201-265-9194;  
 <watkins.bill@verizon.net>  
 Stephen T. Whitmore (C), 350 Old Paper Mill Road, Newark, DE 19711; 302-368-1127  
 Fred Wiedemeyer (2002A, 2002D-ES, 2004C-F), Box 92010, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton,  
 Alberta T6T 1N1, CANADA; 780-465-6432; cell 780-497-8283; <wiedem@planet.eon.net>  
 Don Williams (N), 27505 Artine Dr., Saugus, CA 91350-2193; 661-297-3947;  
 <dwilliams@fontana.org>  
 W. Andrew York (767), P. O. Box 201117, Austin, TX 78720-1117; <wandrew@compuserve.com>

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 9)

able to speak coherently. They had been so miserable until Doctor Feelgood filled them full of happy pills!

Many recent elections have been decided by Voter Feelgood. When casting his or her ballot, Voter Feelgood has the feeling "That'll show them!" To Voter Feelgood, "them" is a vaguely apprehended combination of immigrants, non-whites, lawyers, univer-

sity faculties, Communists\*, the media, Feminists, homosexuals, Pacifists, and Muslims and other people with strange religions or none. Afterwards, as they step over more and more homeless people on their way to work (if they still have jobs), or if their children come home from Iraq without legs, eyes, or sanity, they simply do not connect these things with their votes.

During the campaign, Thomas Frank wrote a book entitled *What's the Matter with Kansas?*, subtitled "How conservatives won the heart of America". He addressed the question of why so many people in the "red states" vote against their own economic interests, to the point where they apparently reject public health care plans, and want their social security accounts to be sunk in the next stock market crash.

They know this in Kansas, too. In 2000 that state's Board of Education announced a new curriculum that would teach "creation science" in the public schools, and also give information about the age of the universe that conforms to the bible but not to any scientific measurements. This plan was endorsed by every candidate for the presidential nomination of either major party, except for Senator Bradley. Three of its supporters were voted off the Board later that year, and the notion was abandoned. But now it is coming back. Encouraged by this "moral values" nonsense, Kansas Republicans will try again next year to write their religious prejudices into the public educational system.

But another explanation for the election results is suggested by information reprinted in Jim Burgess's postal gaming 'zine *The Abyssinian Prince* #286. Burgess reprinted a table from an unidentified source, which lists the American states in order of the average Intelligence Quotient (IQ) of their inhabitants. And in the last column of the table we are informed whether each state voted for Bush or for Kerry.

Yes, I am aware that IQ ratings are controversial, and there is some question as to whether they really measure "native intelligence" as is claimed for them, or whether they measure education or the ability to come up fast with the right answer. "The IQ numbers," the table explains, "were originally attributed to the book *IQ and the Wealth of Nations*, though they do not appear in the current edition... This data has been published in *The Economist*... though this does not mean it should be taken as fact."

With these cavils, the data are still devastating. The highest state is Connecticut (113), and the lowest is Mississippi (85). Of the nineteen states that went for Kerry, sixteen are at the head of the list. It is not until we get to the 17th state, Virginia (100), that we find one of the "red states". The lowest "blue state" is Oregon (99), 24th on the list. This leaves 26 "red states" with lower average IQs than any "blue state". (Kansas (96) is 28th.) So maybe the difference between "red states" and "blue states" isn't sly Republicans selling political snake oil to gullible hicks. Maybe it's just brains.

\*

A gamer to whom I recently sent a sample copy of *Graustark* claims that General MacArthur's last act as a retired general was to urge President Kennedy not to send troops into Vietnam. Does anyone know anything about this alleged advice? I never heard anything about it while that war was still being fought, and it sounds most uncharacteristic of MacArthur.

\*

For anyone who relies on the information from reference books and other presumably reliable sources, it is most disconcerting to find that they differ from one another. On my seventh birthday I received a copy of *Van Loon's Geography*, the first non-fiction book I ever read which had been written for adult readers. In it, the Dutch-American author Hendrik Willem van Loon expressed the same exasperation about sources of information that disagreed with one another.

I am therefore beginning, in this issue, an occasional brief column entitled "The Battle of the Books", citing quotations from various works which are not in accord with one another. "The Battle of the Books" is also the title of a famous satire written about 300 years ago by Jonathan Swift, and making a quite different point.

As it happens, many years later I discovered that *Van Loon's Geography* was published the same day that I was born.

\* - Yes, Communists. There are still a few people around who think this way. For example, the web-site of the "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth" referred to the Democratic candidate for President as "Commie Kerry".

\*

Recently the *New York Times* published a list of the agencies which are helping the people afflicted by the Indian Ocean tsunami. Of the agencies listed, I decided that Doctors without Borders was the most worthy of support. They are not promoting a national, religious, or ideological agenda, and have a very good record all over the world in helping people afflicted by natural disasters or that most unnatural disaster, war. When I mentioned this to Perdita, she replied that she had come to the same conclusion, and was about to suggest them to me. So we sent off a contribution. I can recommend this same step to readers. Their American address is Doctors without Borders, P. O. Box 1856, Merrifield, VA 22116-8056; 888-736-0392; <[www.DoctorswithoutBorders.org](http://www.DoctorswithoutBorders.org)>

(Besides, Doctors without Borders is originally *Médecins sans Frontières*; it was founded in France. Helping a French organization to help the victims of the tsunami will be one in the eye for the France-bashing idiots who are upset about France's official opposition to the Middle Eastern "Crusade" of Bush the Son.)

Incidentally, defenders of the existing order will be gratified to know that preparations for war have not been affected by the tsunami - whose death toll is, after all, well below that of the American invasion of Vietnam. One of the few places that did get advance warning of the tsunami was Diego Garcia, which is not a brand of rum but an American military base on an island far out in the middle of the Indian Ocean, established in the late 1970s for no reason that makes any sense. We have received absolutely no information on how the tsunami affected Diego Garcia, but if that half a billion cubic meters of aviation fuel gets loose it'll make all previous oceanic oil spills look like a motorboat with a leaky fuel line. And international aid groups are forbidden by the Indian government to go to much of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, because an Indian air force base is located there.

(The Andaman Islands, which lie in the Bay of Bengal and were hit very hard by the tsunami, are known to most people only from some highly inaccurate information which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle gave about their inhabitants in the second Sherlock Holmes story, "The Sign of the Four".)

\*

Don Del Grande, former publisher of the gaming 'zine *Lemon Curry*, has sent some information about newly published and changed versions of a couple of well-known games. "If you're considering getting a copy of the new version of *Empires of the Middle Ages*," he writes, "you might want to wait for a revised version of the rules (especially as you can't access the online 'living rules', which can be updated more frequently). The biggest change is the doubling of the map size and the removal of the 'boxes' for each Area; instead, an area map is used (with separate counters for each social state). In addition, a few 'units' were added: Armies (+1 when attempting a Conquest or Pillage, or -1 when defending), Fleets (more like naval bases, as they can't move; each fleet in the base of an endeavor increases the number of sea areas that can be transversed by one, and a Conquest or Pillage cannot be attempted against a target area with more fleets than are in the base area), Commerce (one additional gold piece when that area is taxed, without affecting the social state for rebellion purposes), Cathedrals/Mosques (+1 to a Ruling endeavor in that area, and +1 to the leader's religious conversion activity), Palaces (one ruling endeavor may affect any number of that player's areas with Palaces in them simultaneously), and Universities (any +1 increase in that area's social state becomes a +2). Note that only Armies can move (a number of spaces equal to the Leader's combat rating)."

There have also been changes in Looney Lab's card game *Fluxx*. "*Fluxx 3.0*, a slightly revised version of the card game *Fluxx*. (3.0 is the one in the black box; 2.1 is in the white box.) Here are the differences:

"Cards in 2.1 not in 3.0

RULES: Tax Bonus (Taxes card draws 1 extra card); Time Bonus (Time card plays 1 extra card); Hand Limit 3; Brain Bonus (Brain card gets +1 hand limit); Money Bonus (Money card gets +1 keeper limit); Secret Data (all players can hide one keeper); Government Cover-Up (all players hide all keepers); Final Card Random (if Play 2, 3, or 4 is in effect, the final card played is selected at random from your hand)

KEEPERS: Coffee; Doughnuts; The Eye; The Pyramid; Taxes

GOALS: Coffee and Doughnuts; Death and Taxes; The Great Pyramid (eye and

pyramid); The Mind's Eye (eye and brain); Death (No Taxes)(death, and no one has taxes)

ACTIONS: Pilfer the Trash (look at the top 3 cards in the discard pile and keep one of them); Security Breach (discard Government Cover-Up and Secret Data if in play); Trash Hand Limit (discard any hand limit in play); Trash keeper Limit (discard any keeper limit in play)

#### Cards in 3.0 not in 2.1

RULES: Poor Bonus (player with fewest keepers draws 1 extra card); Rich Bonus (player with most keepers plays 1 extra card); First Play Random (the first card played is selected at random from your hand); No Hand Bonus (if you have no cards in your hand at the start of your turn, draw 3); Double Agenda (two goals can be in play at once; you can win with either goal, provided no one else can win at the same time); X = X + 1 (assume every digit on every card, except this one, is 1 higher than it says - and it does apply to the "basic rules"); Reverse Order (order of play changes direction)

KEEPERS: Dreams; Sleep

GOALS: Baked Goods (bread & cookies); Winning the Lottery (dreams & money); Squishy Chocolate (sun & chocolate); Rocket Science (rocket & brains); Hearts & Minds (love & brains); Dreamland (sleep & dreams); Bed Time (sleep & time)

ACTIONS: Empty the Trash (shuffle discards into the deck); Go Fish (name any card - if someone has it, they give it to you and you can play it; if not, draw a card); Need a Goal (each player gives you a Goal card, if they have one, and you draw a card for each player that doesn't; keep one of the cards, and discard the rest); Let's Do That Again! (take and play any Action or Rule card in the discards); Let's Simplify (remove up to half (rounded up) of the Rules cards in play); No Limits (remove any hand and keeper limits in play)

Also, a number of keepers and goals have slight differences:

Chocolate - the "Hershey's Kiss" has been replaced by a chocolate Bar (Hershey complained)

Money - for some reason, the two coins have been moved to the top of the picture

Time - the time has been changed from 10:05 to 8:20

War - the mushroom cloud has been replaced with a tank

The Sun & The Moon is now called Night And Day

War And Death is now called War = Death"

\*

But, as much fun as Fluxx is, it is really a light game, most fitting to be played by the people eliminated in a Diplomacy game while they wait for the survivors to finish playing. The grimly serious character of Diplomacy, especially over-the-board Diplomacy, is revealed to the general public by Blake Eskin, in the *Washington Post* of 14 November 2004, page W16. (Dean Wright downloaded a print copy for me from <washingtonpost.com>; the print copy also carries the cryptic notation <<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A38110-2004Nov9?...>>)

The article, entitled "World Domination: the Game", relates Eskin's experiences with an over-the-board Diplomacy tournament, referring also to Eskin's own background as an o-t-b Diplomacy player 15 years earlier in high school. He goes into the history of the game, back to when Allan B. Calhamer was a history major at Harvard, about 50 years ago, and designed Diplomacy. Unfortunately, Eskin does not mention a Harvard course on World War I, taught by Sidney Fay, who had made his reputation by writing *The Origins of the World War* (1928). This book, once very controversial, asserted that that war was not an apocalyptic attempt by evil Germans to conquer the world, but just one more violent outbreak of traditional imperialistic rivalries. This course seems to have inspired Calhamer to create Diplomacy.

Eskin attended meetings of the Potomac Tea & Knife Society ("Pitkis"), which runs floating monthly games in members' homes in the Washington area. They also have an annual Diplomacy convention, The Tempest in a Teapot, which runs three rounds in 48 hours, making it sound similar to the o-t-b tournament run by Dan Mathias at Origins.



The most recent Teapot was held at the Hunt Valley Inn in Maryland, also a favorite location for science-fiction conventions. One of the people there was David Hood, whose fortunes as Turkey are followed by Eskin in an o-t-b game. Hood once played in Graustark. He is an attorney, a profession that is well represented in Diplomacy fandom. He is also a descendant of General John Bell Hood, who earned the gratitude of every loyal American by his numerous errors of judgment commanding Confederate troops.

It does not seem to be a good idea to be either a new player, or a well-known strong player, particularly in an o-t-b game. New players are too easy to maneuver into alliances that are more to the ally's advantage, while strong players are more likely to have "targets on their backs".

Eskin also mentions my invention of postal Diplomacy, and also the now popular Internet games. However, his main focus is on o-t-b play. There is an explanation of the well-known Lepanto Opening, but nothing about the Anglo-Turkish Ultimatum. If these two players say to Russia at the beginning of the game, "Either you ally with us or we'll both attack you", Russia really has no other good alternative.

And of course Eskin quotes the famous saying "Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice Doggy' while you look for a big enough rock." Evil Tom (this is not the same man as Bad Tom) plays while wearing a button with these words, although this may not be the best tactical move. I have yet to hear an attribution for this quotation.

There may be one little problem with Eskin's article. The two people who introduced Eskin to the contemporary o-t-b Diplomacy scene use the nicknames "Satan" and "Bad Tom". Since the *Washington Post* circulates widely, these *noms de Diplomatie* will be picked up by the sort of game-bashers who think that Dungeons & Dragons is satanic, and they could extend their condemnation to Diplomacy as well. There might also be objections to the broken agreements, double-crosses, and just plain lies which are common in the play of Diplomacy, although such objections would sound rather peculiar from people who interpret Christian ethics to encompass the murder of abortion providers and the torture of prisoners of war.

\*

During the recent presidential campaign, sarcastic anti-Bush demonstrators would show up at Bush rallies, and join in the "Four more years!" chant with "Four more wars!" Sometimes the Bushites would take up the chant, apparently believing that it was seriously intended. And, considering that columnists including many liberals are trying to promote an American military intervention in Sudan, in case the war with Iraq is not sufficiently profitable, maybe we should really prepare for "Four more wars!"

\*

Just in time for my review of the latest Rumpole book on pp. 6-7, there has been published a book which agrees with Sir John Mortimer's and my own conclusions about some British reactions to the rise of Fascism in Europe, which perceived Germany, Italy, and the other Fascist states as a reliable bulwark against the Great Red Menace. It is Ian Kershaw's *Making Friends with Hitler* (Penguin Press), reviewed by Bill Goldstein in the *New York Times* of 6 January 2005. "Here Ian Kershaw's subject is the Seventh Marquess of Londonderry" whose "'pursuit of the phantasm of friendship with Hitler's Germany' gives 'new color to the often somewhat arid politics of appeasement' and helps explain why 'Britain embarked upon such a thorny road.' Londonderry later acknowledged that he had 'backed the wrong horse'", as did many other anti-Communist enthusiasts from the 1930s. "[B]ut a final irony is that his London mansion was destroyed in the blitz."

In that same issue of the *Times*, Chris Hedges cites this quotation from Fritz Stern's essay "National Socialism as Temptation":

"There was a longing in Europe for fascism before the name was ever invented. There was a longing for a new authoritarianism with some kind of religious orientation and above all a greater communal belongingness. There are some similarities in the mood then and in the mood now, although also significant differences."

We should keep this in mind whenever some contemporary American politician or journalist insists that America can be made safe forever, if only we become more religious, abandon certain Constitutional guarantees of individual freedom, and transfer significant amounts of political power from Congress and the courts to the President.

## DUNGEONS &amp; CHRISTIANS - CLXXIX

"If America's secular liberals think they have it tough now, just wait till the Second Coming.

"The 'Left Behind' series, the best-selling novels for adults in the U. S., enthusiastically depict Jesus returning to slaughter everyone who is not a born-again Christian. The world's Hindus, Muslims, Jews, and agnostics, along with many Catholics and Unitarians, are heaved into everlasting fire: 'Jesus merely raised one hand a few inches and...they tumbled in, howling and screaming.'

"Gosh, what an uplifting scene!" - Nicholas D. Kristof, *New York Times*, 24 November 2004

Ever since the election, the Christian Right has been crowing about how they will now be able to enforce their own ideas of what "moral values" are. This is based on a belief that voter concern with "moral values" is what won the election for the Republicans. None of them have stopped to consider that many of us believe peace to be a "moral value", and that therefore President Bush's private and personal invasion of Iraq is morally wrong. Considering that estimates of the total number of deaths, civilian and military, on both sides, go well into five figures, I think that a good case can be made for this point of view.

But the concerns of the Christian Right extend over a wide range. Everything from gay marriage to the right breast of the decidedly non-gay Janet Jackson is condemned by them. And eventually Christian Triumphalism will get around to their long-standing objection to our hobby - Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) and other role-playing games (RPGs), video games, and even board games. (See p. 14 for my speculations on an attack on Diplomacy, based on Blake Eskin's article in the *Washington Post*.)

The principal opposition to these bursts of religious fanaticism comes from the Game Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and from the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (CAR-PGa). This column relies heavily on reports from both of these organizations. CAR-PGa Newsletter is published monthly by Paul Cardwell Jr., 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418 at \$12.00 a year for domestic, and \$13.50 a year for foreign, addresses. It keeps us posted on attacks on D&D and other RPGs, and provides us with arguments and strategies to be used against attempts to censor or ban games. It also lists upcoming gaming conventions.

In the next Graustark I will continue my reports and commentary about the game-bashing activities exposed in CAR-PGa Newsletter.

\*

For Christmas I got a curious volume from my daughter Karina and her husband. Its title is *ΑΠΕΙΟΣ ΠΟΤΗΡ και η του φιλοσόφου λίθος*, a translation into classical Greek of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. (I do not know how to produce the diacritical marks on my word processor's Greek keyboard, short of putting them in by hand.) The front cover shows Harry standing on Platform 9 3/4, looking at a locomotive labeled "ΩΚΥΠΤΟΡΟΣ ΥΟΓΟΗΤΙΚΗ". That second word, "Hyogontike", is apparently "Hogwarts", since *hyos* is scientific Greek for "hog". (I have never studied Greek, and mostly know only the many Greek words that have entered our scientific vocabulary.)

The translation was done by Andrew Wilson of Bedford, England, who taught classics at a school in Bedford for over thirty years. The translation was published in 2004 by Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. of London. When I mentioned this book to friends, one of them informed me that several years ago this book had been translated into Latin.

\*

Meanwhile, J. K. Rowling and her publisher have announced that the sixth Harry Potter book will be published next summer. Its title is *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. This book instantly became the best seller on <barnesandnoble.com>, and in the top ten on <Amazon.com>. Worldwide sales of the Harry Potter books have totaled 260,000,000 copies in 62 languages in nearly 200 countries. (*New York Daily News*, 22 December 2004) No wonder the campaign of the Christian Right, and a few Muslims as well, to ban these books has apparently collapsed. I only wish we could get the reaction of Rev. Jack Brock of Christ Community Church, Alamogordo, NM, who celebrated

Christmas 2001 with a "holy bonfire" of books by J. K. Rowling, William Shakespeare, J. R. R. Tolkien, and other presumably anti-Christian authors. (*New York Post*, 27 December 2001; *New York Times*, 1 January 2002) According to a photo in the *Times*, the flames of the bonfire were about five meters high. Burning books, it turns out, is a fine old Christian tradition. See Acts 19:19 for an early example.

Why Shakespeare? In his comedies, Jack and Jill may spend the first act playing in a haystack, but by the fifth act they are properly and decently married. I suspect that Brock may have been upset about the speech that Shakespeare gives to the ghost of Hamlet's father. To judge from that speech, Shakespeare was the only Protestant who ever understood the Roman Catholic doctrine about purgatory. And that doctrine of purgatory has for centuries the focus of attacks by Protestants, who consider it unscriptural and un-Christian.

This book has not been Rowling's only creative endeavor lately. She is expecting her third child this year.

\*

I knew that something like this would soon follow the disastrous Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami of 26 December 2004. So I was not surprised to learn of this analysis of the event by Rev. Bill Koenig, <[christianfundamentalist.watch.org](http://christianfundamentalist.watch.org)>, 3 January 2005:

"The Biblical proportions of this disaster become clearly apparent upon reports of miraculous Christian survival. Christian persecution in these countries is some of the worst in the world." - *Village Voice*, 5 January 2005

But Rev. Koenig is not the only person to see the tsunami as cosmic pay-back. In the *New York Times* of 5 January 2005, John Schwartz cites some wacky arguments that have appeared on the Internet, blaming the tsunami on human actions. This is taking place in the "blogs", short for "weblogs" or "warblogs". On one of them, which uses the grandiose name "Democratic Underground" and seems to be a hang-out for anti-Bushites, "a participant asked, 'Since we know that the atmosphere has become contaminated by all the atomic testing, space stuff, electronic stuff, earth pollutants, etc., is it logical to wonder if: Perhaps the "bones" of our earth where this earthquake spawned have also been affected?'"

Wait. It gets even sillier. "The cause of the earthquake and resulting killer wave, the writer said, could be the war in Iraq. 'You know, we've exploded many millions of tons of ordnance upon this poor planet...All that "shock and awe" stuff we've dumped upon the Asian part of this earth - could we have fractured something? Perhaps the earth was just reacting to something that man has done to injure it. The earth is organic, you know. It can be hurt.'"

Norodom Sihanouk, the ex-king of Cambodia, has also bought into this anti-scientific nonsense. On his website, <[www.norodomsihanouk.info](http://www.norodomsihanouk.info)>, he claims that an astrologer "warned him that 'an ultra-catastrophic cataclysm' would strike the region, but Cambodia would be undamaged if the proper rituals were observed." The ex-king put up thousands of dollars to ensure this.

On 29 December 2004, the *New York Times* printed a long claim, in this same tone, from Simon Winchester, previously famous for his 1992 book *Pacific Nightmare*, which claimed that terrible things would happen unless the United States immediately made a surprise nuclear attack on Japan. He connects the tsunami somehow to the idea that, in the Oriental calendar, 2004 was the Year of the Monkey. He then goes on to tie his ideas to a notion conceived by James Lovelock, one of those classic British eccentrics of a type which our republic seems (fortunately) to be unable to produce. It is Lovelock's belief that the entire earth is a living creature, whose parts all affect one another, and which he calls "Gaia". "The events that this week destroyed the shores of the Indian Ocean, and which leveled the city of Bam [Iran] a year ago were of an unmitigated horror, but they may also serve some deeper planetary purpose quite hidden in our own beliefs." This idea has exactly the same scientific validity as the explanation that Voltaire's Dr. Pangloss gave to Candide about recent disastrous earthquakes in successive years in Peru and Portugal: "There is certainly a vein of sulfur running under the earth from Lima to Lisbon."

On tuning into a news broadcast a few days after the tsunami, I heard a newscaster quote a priest in that region who said it would now be difficult to teach people that a kind and loving god is watching over them. I did not hear the priest's religion identified, but it really does not matter, since this dilemma would be common to all religions, and can be eliminated only by abandoning them all. Maybe his parishioners ought to follow the example of a character in Pierre Louÿs's early 20th century novel *Psyche*. She was the daughter of a Tamil mother and a Philippine father, and born at Pondichéry, a French outpost in India. She prayed both to Mary and to the Hindu goddess Parvati, and thanked them both for favors received.

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In Graustark #759 I printed a facetious "letter" pointing out that the states which amended their constitutions to forbid gay marriage or civil unions were making it more difficult for their businesses to recruit people. In the letter I made references to three literary works from the 1920s, and challenged readers to identify them. However, my memory played me false, and only two of those works were from the 1920s. One of them was Sinclair Lewis's *Babbitt* (1922), set in the city of Zenith in the Midwestern state of "Winnemac". Another referred to H. P. Lovecraft's creation Miskatonic University, located in the fictitious town of Arkham, Massachusetts. This university appeared in several Lovecraft works, the first of which was "Herbert West - Reanimator" (1922). Later fans and imitators have assumed that various "Dark Arts" are taught at Miskatonic, but Lovecraft himself cast Miskatonic faculty members or alumni as men who successfully fought the demonic menaces which populate his fiction.

But the "Cosmodemonic Telegraph Corporation" was created by Henry Miller in his 1939 novel *Tropic of Capricorn*, as a satire on American big business. For many years this and some of Miller's other writings were forbidden to be imported into the United States, and had to be published and sold in Paris. In 1959, returning from a scientific conference in France, I smuggled several paperback copies of *Tropic of Cancer* and *Tropic of Capricorn* through customs at Maguire Air Force Base in New Jersey. I later sold them in Syracuse for \$5 each, a huge price for paperbacks in those days.

\*



When I commented on Eskin's *Washington Post* article a few pages back that-a-way, I neglected to quote his description of Diplomacy as something of a cross between Chess and Poker. But the management of the comic strip *Baby Blues* took care of the matter in

this strip. Poker, as a card game usually linked with gambling, has long been a subject of Christian condemnation. In modern times, Chess has largely escaped such attacks, although Paul Cardwell Jr. once published in *CAR-PGA Bulletin* a facetious article which condemned Chess using the same arguments that have been used against D&D.

\*

The altogether justified condemnation of teachers or professors who enter into sexual relationships with their students has combined with frantic Christian opposition to "witchcraft" to produce a strange court case in South Haven, MI. (*New York Daily News*, 4 December 2004) Elizabeth Miklosovic, a middle school teacher, is accused of "bewitching" a 14-year-old girl, and even marrying her in a Neo-Pagan ceremony. It is uncertain whether the girl was the complainant. Miklosovic, who seems to be already living in a lesbian relationship with another adult woman, could face life in prison if convicted.

While Miklosovic's behavior, as reported in the story, is certainly criminally culpable, prosecutions have also been attempted in several states against people who engage in Neo-Pagan rituals, with no other accusations made. A few years ago, a seaside solstice ritual on Staten Island was broken up by police, who arrested the participants. Fortunately, the case came before a Judge Brennan who was well-informed about the religious practices of his Pagan Irish ancestors, and he dismissed all charges. Several years earlier, accused "Witches" in western Texas were not so fortunate, although the ultimate disposition of the case never got into eastern newspapers.

2002A

"Fall 1910"

## LAND RUSH IN MITTELEUROPA

FRANCE (Street): F Nth S TURKISH F Nrg-Nwy; F Lon-Eng; F Liv-Cly; A Bur S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Tyr-Mun; F Edi S F Nth; A Bel-Ruh; A Mar S A Bur; A Pic-Bel.

GERMANY (Bourgeois): No moves received. A Ruh, A Kie & A Hol hold; A Mun & A Ber dislodged and annihilated.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Watkins): A Tyr-Mun; A Boh S A Tyr-Mun; A Vie S A Boh; F Ion holds; A Gal-War; A Ukr-Mos; A Tri-Tyr; A Rom holds ((sic; no such unit exists)); A Ven not ordered, holds..

RUSSIA (McKinsey): A Mos-St.P; A War-Mos; A Pru-Ber; F Bal S A Pru-Ber; A Swe-Den; F Nwy S A Mos-St.P.

TURKEY (Jordan): A Sev S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Ukr-Mos; A Sil-Ber; A Rum-Ukr; F Bla-Bul(e.c.); F Nrg-Nwy; F Bar S F Nrg-Nwy; F Tun holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. Russia must retreat N Nwy-Ska or -Swe or remove this unit. This order should come in with the "Winter 1910" orders, which may be made conditional upon it. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Edi, Liv, Lon, Mar,

Par, Por, Spa. (9)

GERMANY: Hol, Kie. (2)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Gre, Mos, Mun,

Rom, Ser, Tri, Ven, Vie. (9)

RUSSIA: Ber, Den, St.P, Swe, War. (5)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Nap, Nwy, Rum, Sev, Smy, Tun. (9)

Turkey may build two new units, and France and Austria-Hungary may each build one. Germany and Russia must each remove one unit. Stand-by orders for Germany should be sent in by John R. Biehl, whose address is on p. 10. The deadline for these "Winter 1910" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2005.

VIENNA: His Majesty the great Emperor Franz Joseph staggers into the audience room, salaams to the French Ambassador, dictates a letter to the Sultan thanking him for helping to spread Christianity and asks where his cousin the Kaiser is this morning.

Luckily, the generals are still facing in the right direction.

2002D

"Spring 1905"

## ITALIA RULES THE WAVES - FOR NOW

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A Fin-St.P; F Nwy-Nrg; F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Bar S A Fin-St.P; F Lon holds.

FRANCE (Lischett): F Tyr-Ion; A Mar-Pie; F Lyo S A Mar-Pie; F Naf-Tun; F Wes S F Naf-Tun; A Ven S A Tyr; A Tyr S GERMAN A Boh ((sic)).

GERMANY (Quirk): A Boh-Gal; A Mun-Boh; A Pru-War; A Sil S A Boh-Gal; F Liv S ENGLISH A Fin-St.P; F Swe holds.

ITALY (Verheiden): F Tun-Tyr; F Ion & F Nap S F Tun-Tyr; F Tus-Rom; A Ser-Tri; A Tri-Ven.

RUSSIA (Grose): A War-Liv; A Mos S A War-Liv; F Con-Aeg; A Ukr-War; A Vie S ITALIAN A Ser-Tri; A Gal S A Ukr-War; A Bul-Rum; A Smy-Con; A Arm-Sev; F Sev-Bla.

Underlined moves are not possible. Russia retreats A Gal-Bud, France retreats F Tyr-Tus, and Germany retreats F Liv-Bot. The deadline for "Fall 1906" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2005.

The French order "A Tyr S GERMAN A Boh" fails because the Germany army was not ordered to hold in, or give support from, Bohemia. And the Russian A Vie can not support an Italian move into an area occupied by another Italian unit.

## RUSSIAN SPRING OFFENSIVE BLOCKED!

ENGLAND (Koch): F Nwy-Nth; F Eng-Iri; A Lon holds; F Liv-Nat.

FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): F Spa(s.c.)-Mid; F Bre S F Spa(s.c.)-Mid; A Pic-Bur; A Por-Spa;  
F Mar-Lyo.

GERMANY (Mathias): F Den-Swe; A Hol-Bel; A Ruh S A Hol-Bel; F Kie-Bal; A Mun-Sil.

ITALY (Mooney): A Ven holds; A Tun-Alb; F Ion C A Tun-Alb; F Nap-Apu.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Alme): A Tri-Bud; F Gre S TURKISH A Bul; A Ser-Rum; A Bud-Gal; A Vie S  
A Bud-Gal.

RUSSIA (Biehl): F Bot-Swe; F Bla S TURKISH A Bul; A Rum S A Ukr-Gal; A Ukr-Gal; A War S  
A Ukr-Gal.

TURKEY (Bruce): A Ank holds; F Con-Aeg; A Bul S RUSSIAN A Rum; F Smy-Eas.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1902" moves is NOON,  
FRIDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2005.

NOTE: One player has sent in his review of the recently concluded postal game of Colonial Diplomacy, and another has promised a review. I will publish those reviews, and any others which come in by then, in the next issue of Graustark on 5 February 2005.

GRAUSTARK #761

John Boardman  
234 East 19th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302

- ( ) - You may be interested in an item on p. \_\_\_\_.
- ( ) - Sample copy.
- ( ) - You missed a move in this issue. See p. \_\_\_\_.
- ( ) - A stand-by move is needed from you in \_\_\_\_.  
See p. \_\_\_\_.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Timothy R. Haffey Sr.  
810 53rd Ave.  
Oakland, CA  
94601